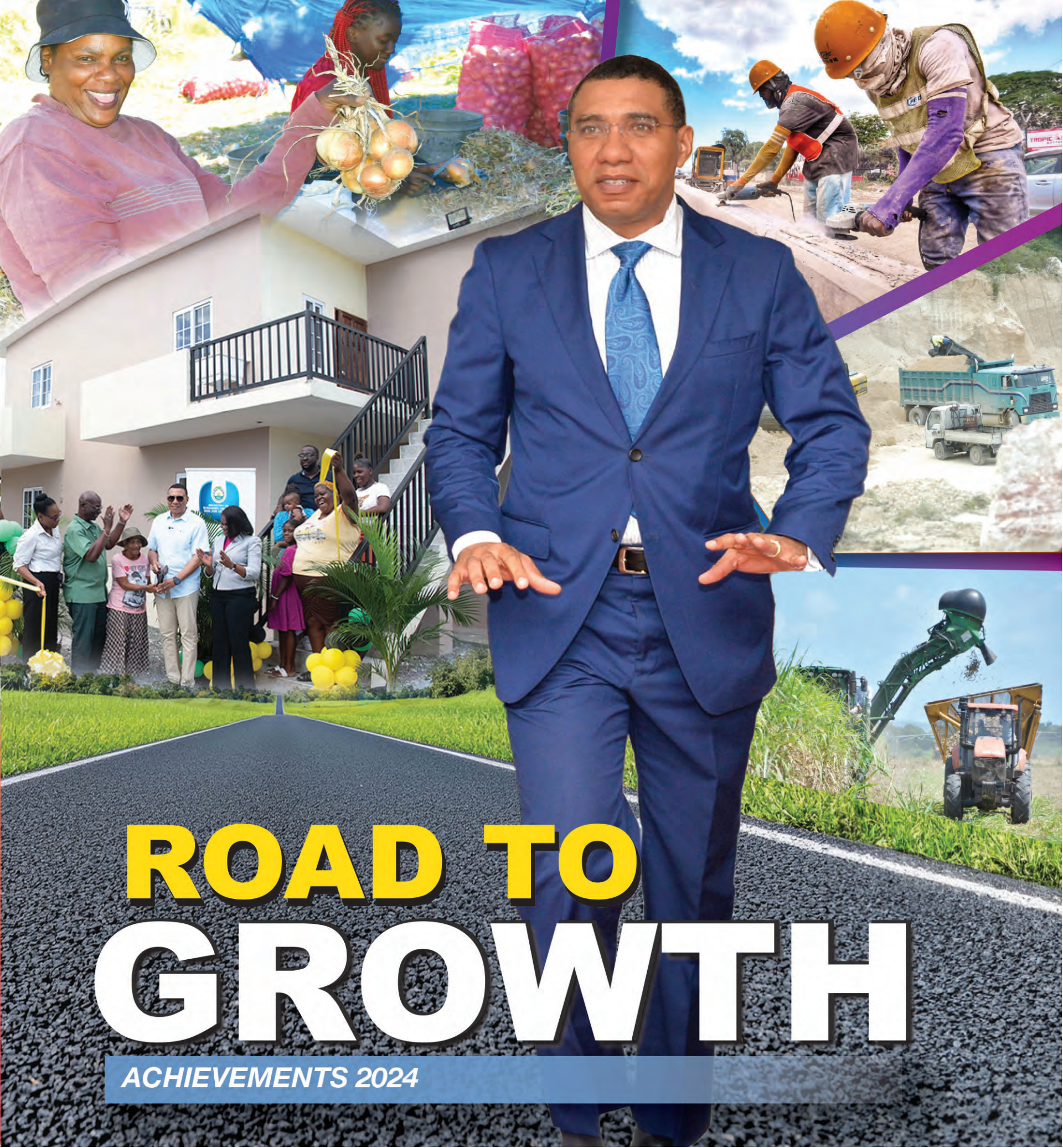




ROAD TO GROWTH

ACHIEVEMENTS 2024

Comprehensive Roadworks Undertaken

Significant work was undertaken to buildout Jamaica's road network:

- The four-lane highway from Harbour View in St. Andrew to the Yallahs Bridge in St. Thomas, was officially opened. The 17-kilometre (km) roadway represents Part B (ii) of the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project (SCHIP).
- The National Works Agency (NWA) completed rehabilitation of the 12-kilometre Whithorn to Darliston road in Westmoreland at a cost of \$294 million.
- Additionally, the NWA commenced work to rehabilitate sections of the Burnt Ground to Ramble, and Mackfield to Ramble roads in Hanover Eastern at a cost of \$36.5 million.
- The rehabilitated Gravel Lane in Montego Bay, St. James, which has been described as the first brick road in the Second City, was opened. The roadway was repaired under the St. James Municipal Corporation's signature project, at a cost of \$2 million.
- Ground was broken for the Boundbrook Urban Centre in Port Antonio, Portland, which will be developed on 6.68 acres of land at a cost of \$4.2 billion.
- Ground was also broken for the Spicy Grove Infrastructure Works Project in Oracabessa, St. Mary, which will entail the development and installation of roadways, water facilities and electricity in the community, as well as the formalisation of land tenure.
- Work commenced under the Relief Emergency Assistance and Community Help (REACH) Programme, which



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (4th right), cuts the ribbon to symbolise the opening of the Harbour View to Yallahs Bridge leg of the Southern Coastal Highway Improvement Project. Joining him are (from left) Member of Parliament (MP) for St. Thomas Eastern, Dr. Michelle Charles; former Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC), Hon. Everald Warmington; St. Thomas Western MP, James Robertson; Permanent Secretary in the MEGJC, Arlene Williams; Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Jamaica, His Excellency Chen Daojiang; MP for St. Andrew East Rural, Most Hon. Juliet Holness; and Custos of St. Thomas, Hon. Marcia Bennett.

was initiated to repair widespread road damage caused during the passage of Hurricane Beryl, just south of Jamaica, on July 3.

- The Government allocated an initial \$3 billion under the programme, which was focused on community roads. This allowed Members of Parliament to select the roads that were of major concern to their constituents.
- Another \$2 billion was earmarked and approved to execute emergency road repairs.
- Work commenced on the \$45 billion Shared Prosperity through Accelerated Improvement to our Road Network (SPARK) Programme.
- The Government signed four contracts, valued \$36.04 billion, with China Harbour Engineering Company (CHEC), to undertake works under the project.
- The Morant Bay Urban Centre project in St. Thomas achieved more than 70 per cent completion.



Prime Minister Holness (3rd left) and Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with Responsibility for Works, Hon. Robert Morgan (2nd right), share a photo opportunity with (from left) Chief Executive Officer, National Works Agency (NWA), Everton Hunter; Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Arlene Williams; Head of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Unit, Kedesha Rochester, and Senior Director, NWA, Varden Downer. Occasion was a tour of the Everest Drive project site under the Government's \$45-billion Shared Prosperity Through Accelerated Improvement to Our Road Network (SPARK) Programme. Everest Drive is situated in the constituency of Kingston Eastern and Port Royal.

Sustained Macroeconomic Stability

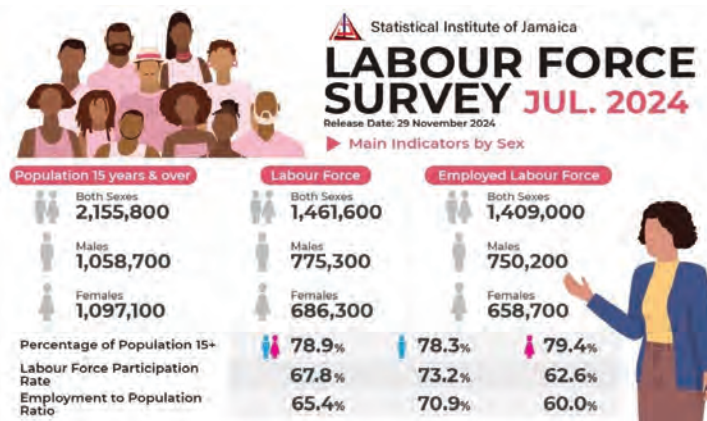
Jamaica's macroeconomic stability withstood challenges related to, among other things, significant weather-related events, including the passage of a hurricane and tropical storm just off the island's coast.

Notable supporting outcomes included:

- Record high Net International Reserves (NIR) totalling more than US\$5 billion.
- Reduction in the Debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio to 74.2 per cent, the lowest in 25 years.
- 5 per cent inflation rate, which fell within the Bank of Jamaica's (BOJ) four to six per cent target range.
- Record low 4.2 per cent unemployment rate.

Other pivotal developments included:

- US\$150 million World Bank catastrophe bond settlement.



- US\$500 million five-year financing arrangement, involving Jamaica, international financial institutions and donors, to fund climate needs.
- US\$20 million World Bank loan agreement signed to support the Social Protection for Increased Resilience and Opportunities (SPIRO) Programme.
- Memorandum of Cooperation signed with the Japan International Cooperation

Agency (JICA) to advance the Jamaica-Japan Partnership Initiative, targeting developmental assistance in priority areas over the next five years.

- Memorandum of Understanding signed with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to streamline Public Private Partnership (PPP) project development and implementation across multiple sectors.



Former Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Dr. Nigel Clarke (left), and World Bank Country Director, Lilia Burunciuc, display a copy of the US\$20 million Social Protection for Increased Resilience and Opportunities (SPIRO) Project loan agreement during the SPIRO Visibility Ceremony at the Ministry in Kingston. They are joined by World Bank Human Development Regional Director, Dr. Jaime Saavedra.

- Reverse Income Tax Credit implementation, which provides a one-off \$20,000 grant to registered taxpayers earning less than US\$3 million per annum.

There was a changing of the guard at the helm of the Min-

istry of Finance and the Public Service:

- Dr. the Hon. Nigel Clarke demitted office as Portfolio Minister on October 31 to take up the position of International Monetary Fund (IMF) Deputy Managing Director.



1. Workmen undertaking pipeline installations on a water improvement project.
2. Consumers purchasing produce from market vendors.
3. Minister of Finance and the Public Service, Hon. Fayval Williams (right), peruses a copy of The Citizens' Guide to the 2024/25 Budget with students of St. Catherine High School. The occasion was the launch of the Finance Ministry's 2024 National Budget Secondary School Tour.

Increased Access to Water

Extensive work was undertaken to boost the provision of and access to potable water by more Jamaicans:

- The \$10.8 million Orangefield Water Improvement Project was commissioned, benefiting over 1,000 residents in St. Catherine North Western.
- The project includes 1.1 kilometres of pipeline running from Orangefield Primary school to Orangefield Square, and is a follow up to the Jericho water system's expansion, which was undertaken at a cost of \$120 million.
- More than 400 residents of Fort Hill in Hellshire, Portmore, St. Catherine, now have access to an improved supply of potable water, following an investment of over \$8 million to boost the system serving them.
- The \$35 million Spicy Hill Pipeline Project in Trelawny was commissioned into service. This new water
- Ground was broken for the Lancewood Pipeline Extension Project in Exchange, St. Ann, which will benefit over 400 residents in Lancewood and adjoining districts.
- Approximately 3,000 residents in St. Elizabeth are benefitting from a partnership that facilitated the purchase and delivery of two generators that have been installed at the NWC's Newell and Little Park facilities in the parish.
- Over 700 residents of Eden in Clarendon North Central now have access to potable water, following the expansion of the Mocho Water Supply System in the parish at a cost of \$30 million.
- The \$5.4 million Middle Quarters Greater Water Supply system was com-

missioned into service, benefitting some 3,200 households in Lancewood, Middle Quarters, St. Elizabeth.

- Ground was broken for the US\$77 million (J\$12 billion) Rio Cobre Water Treatment Plant Project in Content, St. Catherine.
- The plant, which is expected to be the second largest in Jamaica, will be able to transfer 15 million gallons of water to benefit approximately 150,000 customers or approximately 600,000 residents in Kingston and St. Andrew, Spanish Town and Portmore in St. Catherine.

Environment

- Jamaica is now ranked number one in the Caribbean for the collection of plastic bottles for recycling.
- A \$197-million contract was signed for the Annotto Bay Coastal Protection Beach Nourishment Project in St. Mary.



Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Matthew Samuda (right), turns on the \$90 million Braco Pipeline Installation Project in Trelawny. He is assisted by Member of Parliament for North Trelawny Tova Hamilton while residents look on.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (3rd left) officially commissions the Middle Quarters Greater Water Supply Project in Lancewood, St. Elizabeth. Also participating are (from left) Councillor for the Brompton Division, Withney Smith-Currie; Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining and Member of Parliament for St. Elizabeth South West, Hon. Floyd Green; and former Mayor of Black River, Councillor Derrick Sangster.



Work underway on the Wentworth Water Supply system in St. Mary.

More Jamaicans Get Homes

Home ownership remained a central pillar of the Government's agenda in 2024.

National Housing Trust (NHT)

- 106 titles were handed over to beneficiaries of Friendship Oaks Phase 1, comprising 150 one-bedroom units, 106 residential serviced lots, and eight commercial lots.
- 50 units were handed over under the Union Acres Development in Irwin, St. James.
- 445 housing solutions were handed over in the Perth Estate Phase Two Housing Development in Manchester, comprising 144 two-bedroom units and 301 serviced lots.
- Home grants were expanded to include the installation of solar panel systems for Public Sector pensioners, at a maximum of \$1.5 million each.
- The home improvement loan policy was revised to allow all contributors to access loans of up to \$3.5 million after 10 years.
- Partnership forged with Ministry of Local Government and Community Development

to construct 14 homeless shelters on government lands across the island.

- Contributors are now able to access smart energy loans for solar panels and batteries; solar water heaters; solar insulation; other renewable energy technology, such as windmills, hydropower and biomass; and rainwater harvesting and storage, to include water tanks and pumps.

Hurricane Beryl Assistance for NHT Mortgages

- Special home improvement loan of up to \$1.5 million made available to current and former mortgagors whose houses sustained damage.
- \$300 million earmarked for NHT Disaster Relief Grant, through which householders can access up to \$300,000.
- Mortgagors whose properties were damaged, are able to file claims under the peril insurance.

Housing Agency of Jamaica

- Over 52 land titles were handed over to beneficiaries in Norwood, Retirement, Rose Heights, Pitfour and Flanker in St. James; Galloway, Whitehouse and Whitehall in Westmoreland, and Fisherman's Village in Hanover.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) is surrounded by new homeowners in the Perth Estate Phase 2 housing development in Manchester, at the official handover of housing solutions.

- Cabinet granted approval to divest three parcels of land located in Hopewell, Hanover, at a cost of \$850 million.
- 300 residents of Clifton in Bernard Lodge, St. Catherine receive land titles.
- handover under the Government's New Social Housing Programme (NSHP).
- The NSHP entered a new chapter in 2024, the relocation of vulnerable communities, with the handover of keys to residents in phase one of the Victoria Palms Housing Development in Denham Town, Kingston, a 12-unit, two-storey development, built at a cost of approximately \$72 million.
- Ground was broken for the Pinnacle residential development in Montego Bay, St. James, which will entail the construction of four 28-storey apartment blocks.
- 36 families at St. Paul's Lane in Tower Hill, St. Andrew, whose houses were destroyed by fire several years ago, are the proud beneficiaries of new homes.

New Social Housing Programme (NSHP)

- More than 300 houses have, to date, either been handed over, completed, are under construction or are awaiting



Prime Minister Holness (2nd left) hugs New Social Housing Programme (NSHP) beneficiary, Simone Reid, while handing her the keys to her new home during a ceremony held in John Reid, St. Ann. Sharing in the moment are Chair, NSHP Oversight Committee, Judith Robb Walters, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Public Service and Member of Parliament for St. Ann Southwestern, Hon. Zavia Mayne.



Young farmer, Yanique Duhaney, is a picture of gratitude after receiving a new home under the NSHP.

Public Transportation Boosted with 120 New Buses

The Government continued to make significant investments in building a sustainable and efficient public transportation system.

Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited (JUTC)

- The bus fleet was boosted with the addition of 120 new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.
- Operations commenced in St. Thomas with the Yallahs and Morant Bay routes.
- Route 510 introduced connecting Old Harbour to Spanish Town in St. Catherine.
- New SmartFare cards introduced, proving a convenient, secure, and simple way to travel.
- Improvement was made in driver training to boost customer satisfaction.
- Fleet inspection and preventative maintenance was strengthened to reduce vehicle breakdowns and maintenance costs.
- Montego Bay Metro Company Limited expanded the number of bus routes served.

Transport Authority (TA)

- 12 motor vehicles added to the TA fleet to improve capacity to monitor and regulate the public transportation sector

Road Safety

- 'Helmet 4 Life' initiative launched to distribute certified helmets to motorcyclists and pillion riders islandwide. Distribution of some 300 helmets started in Westmoreland and St. Elizabeth.
- Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, handed over helmets to bikers in St. Ann's Bay, St. Ann.
- Road Network Safety Assessment launched to evaluate approximately 1,000



Minister of Science, Energy, Telecommunications and Transport, Hon. Daryl Vaz (2nd right), and Acting Managing Director, Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC), Owen Ellington (2nd left), greet commuters in St. Thomas while aboard one of the JUTC buses that ply the new routes in the parish. At left is Member of Parliament for St. Thomas Western, James Robertson.



Minister Vaz assists President of the Combined Disabilities Association, Christine Keene, in using the wheelchair ramp to enter one of the JUTC's new compressed natural gas (CNG) buses. Occasion was the official handover of the 100 new buses at the JUTC's Portmore Depot in St. Catherine.

kilometers of roadway, with the aim of putting measures in place to reduce road fatalities.

- Scores of high school students received learner's permits after taking the Road Code Test.

- Runway overlay completed.
- Upgrading of restrooms, improved lighting and new seating areas added.
- Installation of a 2.8MW solar farm.

Ian Fleming Airport

- Introduction of twice-weekly flights by American Airlines.

Maritime

- Jamaica launched its candidature for re-election to Category C of the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- Memorandum of Cooperation concerning the implementation of Jamaica's international maritime obligations was signed.

Bridging the Digital Divide

- Free, secure, internet access was provided to underserved and rural areas islandwide through the Community Wi-Fi and Community Connect Ja programmes.
- Residents of Watt Town in St. Ann benefitted from the establishment of a \$30-million multipurpose facility that provides information technology, postal and bill payment services, and space for community activities.

Technology Devices

- 400 tablet computers were handed over to high-achieving PEP students from low-income families under the Universal Service Fund's (USF's) Connect a Child Programme.
- Wanstead Primary and Infant School in Clarendon received four desktop computers and two televisions.
- 20 desktop computers and a printer were handed over to Spalding Primary school in Clarendon.

ICT Scholarships

- \$13 million in scholarships awarded to tertiary level students pursuing Information Community Technology (ICT) degrees.

- Thousands of students engaged in practical sensitisation sessions on safe road use.
- 34 driving instructors certified, enabling them to offer their services to the public.

Sangster International Airport (SIA)

- Runway extension was completed and opened to air traffic, increasing the take-off range from 2,662 metres to 3,060 meters.
- Roll out of biometric check-in and boarding and automated baggage-drop systems.
- Construction of a new, purpose-built lounge for exclusive air-to-sea passengers.
- Introduction of Automated Border Control Systems, or E-gates, with six machines installed to significantly reduce processing time.

Norman Manley International Airport Expansion and Rehabilitation

- Chillers and ceiling fans installed.
- New Passenger Loading Bridge 5 opened.

Positive Tourism Outcomes

Jamaica's tourism industry experienced significant advances in both visitor arrivals and infrastructural development, solidifying its position as a leading Caribbean destination.

Visitor Arrival

- Jamaica welcomed some 4,271,999 visitors, comprising 2,922,672 stopovers and 1,349,325 cruise passengers, representing an increase of 5.3 per cent over 2023.
- Tourism earnings totalled US\$4.35 billion, which was a 3.3 per cent increase over the previous year.

New Flights

- Jamaica welcomed the inaugural American Airlines flight from Miami, Florida, to Ian Fleming International Airport; TUI Airways' Black History Month commemorative flight from the United Kingdom (UK), with an all-black flight crew; Avelo Airlines' inaugural nonstop flight from Hartford; new direct flights into Montego Bay by Caribbean carrier Bahamasair; the return of Latam Airlines out of Lima, Peru, and InterCaribbean Airways from Bridgetown, Barbados.

New Rooms Added

- Approximately 2,000 new rooms were completed.
- RIU Hotels & Resorts' new Aquarelle Hotel opened in Falmouth, Trelawny, marking the entity's seventh property in Jamaica.
- The Princess Grand Jamaica and Princess Senses The Mangrove Resorts were opened in Green Island, Hanover, representing a US\$400 million investment.
- Ground was broken for the Pinnacle residential development in Montego Bay, St. James, which is a US\$450-million investment.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness and Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett engage with a coconut vendor during the opening of the artisan village in Falmouth.



The inaugural Bahamasair flight from Nassau, Bahamas, arrives at the Sangster International Airport (SIA) in Montego Bay, St. James.

- Catalonia Hotels & Resorts announced its purchase of the Holiday Inn Resort in Montego Bay.
- 8 warning signs were erected along the Treasure Beach coastline in St. Elizabeth to enhance safety and promote sustainable tourism practices in the area.

Enhancing the Tourism Product

- The Artisan Village in Falmouth, Trelawny, was officially opened.
- The Catadupa Heritage and Eco Tours initiative was launched.
- A \$30-million multipurpose facility was opened in Watt Town, St. Ann.
- A mural theme: 'Tourism and Peace: Out of Many,



Minister Bartlett greets a red cap porter at the Norman Manley International Airport during a tour of the facility in December.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, engages with visitors, who arrived on the Disney Treasure cruise vessel, which docked at the Falmouth pier in Trelawny in December.

One Love', was unveiled on Peters Lane in downtown Kingston.

- The 'Christmas in July' trade show marked its 10th anniversary, with 205 exhibitors showcasing locally made products at the National Arena.

Agri-Linkages Exchange (ALEX)

- \$1.2 billion in sales generated by farmers to hotels using the ALEX platform.

Global pull

- Jamaica hosted the second Global Tourism Resilience Conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St. James.
- More than 150 buyer companies and 1,000 delegates gathered in Montego Bay for the 42nd staging of the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) Caribbean Travel Marketplace.

Government Continues to Invest Heavily in National Security

The Government has been steadily and strategically investing in the country's national security architecture to improve public order and build safer communities.

Infrastructure:

- Jamaica's first fully digitised police station opened in Hopewell, Hanover.
- Work commenced on approximately 200-plus stations islandwide to gradually transform them into fully automated police stations.

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- Ground broken in Llandilo, Savanna-la-Mar, for the construction of the new \$2.17-billion Westmoreland Divisional Police Headquarters.
- A new mobile police post was established in Gregory Park, St. Catherine.
- New state-of-the-art forensic pathology autopsy suite, being constructed at a cost of \$650 million is approximately 98 per cent complete.
- \$2.2-billion contract signed for St. Catherine North Divisional Headquarters.
- Major renovation got underway at Linstead Police Station in St. Catherine.
- Work was advanced on renovation of National Police College of Jamaica, Rio Bueno Police Station, new Centre for the Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA) Headquarters, Castleton Police Station, Ocho Rios Police Lock-up,

Constant Spring Police Station, Greater Portmore Police Station, Traffic Ticket Processing Unit at Elletson Road Police Station, and the Major Investigation Division.

- Approximately 68 per cent of the upgrades at the Narcotics and Major Investigation Division was completed.

Bolstering Technology

- 350 additional cameras installed under JamaicaEye.
- Jamaica receives 215 CCTV cameras from the Republic of Korea.
- More than \$200 million budgeted for body-worn cameras.
- 3,000 electronic ticketing (e-ticketing) handsets and printers added to the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) resources.
- The National Taskforce Against Trafficking in Persons received 20 new tablets from the International Organization of Migration (IOM).
- 22 police stations utilising the Station Records Management System (SRMS), allowing citizens to make real-time reports to the police.

Improved Mobility

- JCF gets 86 new service vehicles at a cost of more than \$720 million.
- The Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) named and commissioned Jamaica's latest maritime asset – His Majesty's Jamaican Ship (HMJS) Marcus Garvey.

Department of Correctional Services (DCS)

- Hostel refurbished and reopened for rehabilitated inmates of correctional institutions eligible for parole.
- The first ever \$13-million infant nursery established for incarcerated expectant mothers opens at the South Camp Adult Correctional Centre in Kingston.
- DCS gets 12 new vehicles valued at \$97.5 million.
- Digitised Correctional Management System launched.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang (4th right), is joined by (from left) Mayor of Savanna-la-Mar, Councillor Danree Delancy; Head of M&M Construction Limited, Richard Mullings; Chief Technical Director, Ministry of National Security, Delroy Simpson; former Police Commissioner, Major General Antony Anderson; and new Police Commissioner, Dr. Kevin Blake; Member of Parliament, Westmoreland Central, George Wright; and Custos Rotulorum for Westmoreland, Canon Hartley Perrin, in breaking ground for the \$2.7 billion Westmoreland Divisional Police Headquarters in Llandilo, Savanna-la-Mar.



(LEFT): Commissioning ceremony for His Majesty's Jamaican Ship (HMJS), 'Marcus Garvey' (in background), at Port Royal pier. (PHOTO AT RIGHT): Dr. Chang (centre), and Police Commissioner, Dr. Kevin Blake (right), peruse the features of one of 40 new vehicles, valued over \$313 million, which were acquired by the Jamaica Constabulary Force.



Dr. Chang (2nd right) examines a forensic camera kit, which was among 203 technology assets donated by the Republic of Korea, during a ceremony on December 4 at the Office of the Commissioner of Police in Kingston. He is joined by (from left) Chief Technical Director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Ambassador Sharon J. Miller; Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Jin-wook Kim; and Commissioner of Police, Dr. Kevin Blake.

Major Crimes Down

Jamaica's crime-fighting strategy continued to yield significant declines in criminal activities during 2024, marking the second consecutive year of reductions. There was a 14 per cent drop in overall major crimes compared to 2023.

- The total number of murders recorded fell by 19 per cent, equating to approximately 250 fewer persons killed, while shootings dipped by 10 per cent.
- There has been a notable 25 per cent decline in rapes, while robberies have decreased by 21 per cent.
- 763 illegal firearms were taken off the streets. Of that number, 433 guns were seized directly from assailants, while 330 were recovered in situations without arrests.
- The Jamaica Constabulary Force launched 2,777 anti-gang operations, resulting in the detention of 488 persons.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness greets soldiers at the command site in Rocky Point, Clarendon set up by the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) in July. Making the introductions is Chief of Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Antonette Wemyss-Gorman (right).

- 163 gangsters were charged, compared to 145 in 2023.
- Eight gangs, totalling 73 members, were put before the court, while 28 other gangs are being investigated.
- Residents of communities where Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) and States of Public Emergency (SOPEs) were declared, enjoyed relative peace since the security measures were instituted
- The Beat Officer Patrol Division was expanded to 12 divisions with 361 members, including 184 from the Public Safety and Traffic Enforcement Branch.



National Security Minister, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, greets a vendor in the Mandeville Market during a tour of the Manchester capital on October 17 with senior members of the JCF.



The Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) made notable progress in reducing crime with active gangs reduced from 300 in 2023 to 170 in 2024.



A member of the St. Mary Police Division checks the documents of a motorist during a patrol of sections of the parish to maintain public order.



Members of the Community Safety and Security Branch of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) engage with students of Kintyre Basic School in St. Andrew on December 6 as part of the Ministry's LIV GUD campaign.



Ministry of National Security

**BE THE CHANGE,
NOT THE**



**END GANG VIOLENCE
NOW!**

#ENDGANGVIOLENCE



Safeguarding the Most Vulnerable

The Government continued to provide support to the society's most vulnerable:

- National minimum wage moved from \$13,000 to \$15,000 per 40-hour work week.
- Minimum wage for industrial security guards increased from \$14,000 to \$15,000 per 40-hour work week.
- A total of 17,843 benefits, including grants and pensions, were provided to new National Insurance Scheme applicants, while contributions received surpassed benefit payments by \$18.99 billion.
- Jamaica officially ratified the Marrakesh Treaty. This international copyright treaty's main goal is facilitating access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled.
- Employment code of practice for persons with disabilities (PWDs) has been drafted, which will guide employers in learning and understanding how to treat with and relate to PWDs from recruitment to retirement.
- The Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD) has partnered on the New Life, New Limb Project, which provides prosthetic devices to improve mobility and independence for persons who have lost limbs.
- 158 applications, valued at \$53,524,466, were approved under the project during the year, with the JCPD contributing \$3,160,000, reflecting its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for beneficiaries.
- The JCPD, with support from UNICEF Jamaica, launched the Management Information System (MIS)



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Parnell Charles Jr., assists a physically challenged senior citizen to board a Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) bus, following the National Workers Week Expo at Emancipation Park in St. Andrew in May.

Upgrade Project to enhance service delivery for persons with disabilities.

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- 14,428 Jamaicans benefited under the Overseas Work Programme.
- Of this number, 8,255 workers travelled to Canada under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme, while 478 participated in the Low-Skill Programme.
- Additionally, 5,695 workers journeyed to the United States, where 4,691 were employed in the agricultural sector and 1,004 in the hospitality sector.

- The Government, in collaboration with the World Bank, launched the Social Protection for Increased Resilience and Opportunity (SPIRO) Project.
- The programme, valued US\$20 million, aims to further enhance Jamaica's social protection framework.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Ministry and HEART/NSTA Trust to improve the training of workers under the Overseas Employment Programme.
- The Ministry, through its Jamaica Liaison Service (JLS), partnered with Jamaica National (JN) Money Services to strengthen support provided to seasonal workers in Canada.
- In addition, the Ministry in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO), launched the Just Transition Project.
- This initiative aims to support the Government in aligning climate action with the principles of decent work, thereby promoting social justice and advancing sustainable economic development.



Minister Charles Jr (2nd right), and Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Member of Parliament for St. Andrew Eastern, Hon. Fayval Williams (centre), make a presentation to resident of Cheshire Village in the constituency, Dorothy Hamilton (right), during the handover of care packages to residents of the community for physically challenged members. Sharing the moment are: Executive Director, Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD), Dr. Christine Hendricks, and State Minister in the Labour and Social Security Ministry, Dr. the Hon. Norman Dunn.



Minister Charles Jr. (centre), bids farewell to a participant in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Programme (SAWP), during a ceremony at the Overseas Employment Centre on East Street in Kingston. At left is State Minister Dunn.

Swift Post-Hurricane Recovery Response

The Government delivered swift, comprehensive and well-coordinated assistance to Jamaicans affected during the passage of Hurricane Beryl, Tropical Storm Rafael and other severe weather systems. Thousands were aided through the Relief Emergency Assistance and Community Help (REACH) Programme.

- 18,238 assessments were completed, resulting in the distribution of 13,712 cheques valued at \$1.195 billion to individuals affected by Hurricane Beryl.

Inputs facilitating this and other critical interventions included:

- \$1 billion disaster relief plan developed.
- The National Disaster Fund, which now stands at more than \$550 million.
- \$9 million per constituency provided for emergency hurricane preparations, response and relief efforts.

- Emergency relief supplies, valued at US\$360,000, donated by the United States (US), and US\$200,000 and medical equipment provided by the Cayman Islands.
- United Nations World Food Programme cash grants, valued at \$219 million, provided for 15,000 affected Jamaicans.
- \$42.75 million in United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) support for 7,000 affected households in St. Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth.
- \$300 million was earmarked for post-hurricane dengue mitigation.
- \$1 billion provided by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) for on-lending to broiler companies and/or approved farmers sustaining losses.
- National clean-up initiative carried out under the REACH Programme.

- Disaster Assistance Relief Team (DART) and other supporting units mobilised to assist rebuilding and recovery efforts.
- Government programme, focusing on resilient roofing, launched through which hurricane straps were distributed in specific communities.
- Roving generators initiative launched for communities without potable water.
- 500 workers engaged in the Youth Summer Employment Programme (YSEP) assigned to conduct Hurricane Beryl damage assessments.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Security partnered with the Government of the United Kingdom (UK), through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), and the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide critical cash grant assistance to Jamaicans most affected by the hurricane.

- 20,154 food packages were distributed.
- Emergency grants were provided to homeowners, based on the level of damage sustained.
- Persons whose properties sustained minor damage received grants of up to \$50,000, those with severe

damage received up to \$150,000, while householders whose homes were totally destroyed received grants of up to \$400,000.

- \$22-million disbursement to each constituency approved for Mitigation and Clean-Up Programme in response to the effects of Tropical Storm Rafael.



Minister of Labour and Social Security, Hon. Parnell Charles Jr., presents a grant to Portland resident, Marcia Douglas, who was impacted during Hurricane Beryl's passage, just south of Jamaica, on July 3. The occasion was a 'Rebuild Jamaica' handover ceremony at Hotel Tim Bamboo in Port Antonio.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness and Minister Charles Jr. comfort a resident during a tour of the Rocky Point Community Centre in Clarendon, which served as a shelter in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.



Minister Charles Jr. (2nd right) hands over a mattress to resident of Tryall, Nascius Powell (2nd left), during a tour of communities in southern St. Elizabeth that were impacted during Hurricane Beryl's passage. Looking on (from left) are State Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Franklin Witter, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Dr. the Hon. Norman Dunn.

Jamaica the Choice for Doing Business

Jamaica continued to be a premier choice for doing business with several entities establishing or expanding operations in the country, creating jobs for thousands of citizens.

Facilitating Investments

- Courts Jamaica opened its 30th store in Drax Hall, St. Ann.
- 900 persons were employed at Business Process Outsourcing entity Centerfield's new offices in Portmore, St. Catherine.
- Jamaica Packaging Industries (JPI) expanded operations, opening a new 130,000-sq. ft. complex at 693 Spanish Town Road.
- Global real estate brokerage, The Agency, launched its new office in Jamaica.
- IntouchCX, a global leader in customer experience and technology solutions, opened new offices in Kingston.
- Global date privacy experts Securys opened local office.
- RE/MAX Elite Realty opened offices in Portmore, Drax Hall and Negril.
- The Amber-UTech Launchpad was unveiled, with a

goal of fostering 100 tech startups within 1000 days.

Boosting Exports

- 57 companies onboarded under phase four of JAM-PRO's EXPORT MAX Programme, which will benefit from capacity development and export promotion, over a two-year period.
- Launch of the 'EXPORT Jamaica' trading platform which provides information to local manufacturers and exporters to identify and enter new markets and successfully promote and sell their products.
- Successful business missions to Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador, Guyana and Suriname.

Micro, Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Empowered

- 1,353 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) received support totalling US\$5.5 million under the Boosting Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (BIGEE) Programme.
- \$100 million was provided to enable local tradespersons to access financing to



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) cuts the ribbon to open the new Courts location in Drax Hall, St. Ann, on October 10. From left: Unicomer Group Director of Sales, Kimberley Naar; Interim Managing Director, Unicomer Group, Errol Le Blanc; Minister without portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon. Matthew Samuda; Dr Kenneth Russell; Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Hon. Aubyn Hill; Caribbean Managing Director, Unicomer Group, Felix Siman; Store Manager of Courts Drax Hall, Nordin Dean-Leslie; and St. Ann's Bay Mayor, Councillor Michael Belnavis.

purchase essential tools and equipment.

- Seven companies received support under the US\$25 million Jamaica Business Fund (JBF) cluster programme.
- MSMEs benefited from a 9.5-million-Euro Digital Jamaica Project to help improve productivity and efficiency.
- Eight medium-sized entities received grants totalling

\$160 million to support their business ventures or innovations.

- Successful business registration events were held in parishes across the island.
- 130 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) benefitted from training to bolster their capacity to compete for Public Sector contracts.

Film

- The \$1 billion Jamaica Screen Development Initiative (JSDI) was launched to support and strengthen the local screen-based industries.
- 'Bob Marley: One Love' premiered at the Carib 5 cinema in Cross Roads, St. Andrew.

Consumer Protection

- \$17.21 million in compensation was secured on behalf of aggrieved customers for the period April to November.
- JANAAC Global Accreditation gained ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signatory status to include the accreditation of calibration labs to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

Accreditation Services

- Nine entities were certified by the National Certification Body of Jamaica (NCBJ).
- The Trade Board Limited (TBL) achieved ISO 9001:2015 Certification.
- JANAAC hosted certification ceremony for Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) Laboratory; Grenada-based Spice Isle Imaging Centre Inc; and Woodlands Limited Medical Laboratory.



Minister of Industry, Investment and Commerce, Hon. Aubyn Hill (left) and Country Manager, Jamaica Packaging Industries (JPI), Gary Cole, inspect packaging material during a tour of the company's new factory space located at 693 Spanish Town Road in Kingston on October 24.



Minister Hill (2nd left) engages young micro, small and medium-sized enterprise (MSME) owners at the ROK Hotel in downtown Kingston on November 19. From left are: Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), One-on-One Educational Services, Ricardo Allen; Managing Director, Dawson Trading Company Limited, Jordan Dawson; and CEO of Shavuot Farms, Joel Harris.



JA CUSTOMS CONNECT

JA Customs Connect is available in both the **Google Play Store** and the **Apple AppStore**

○ Main Features include:

○ Declaration Search

A feature that facilitates the retrieval of declarations and allows the sharing, tracking and payment of declarations and the download of the associated Customs Assessment Notice.

○ Declaration Payment

A feature that enables the payment of duties and taxes owed on imported goods.

○ Duty Estimator

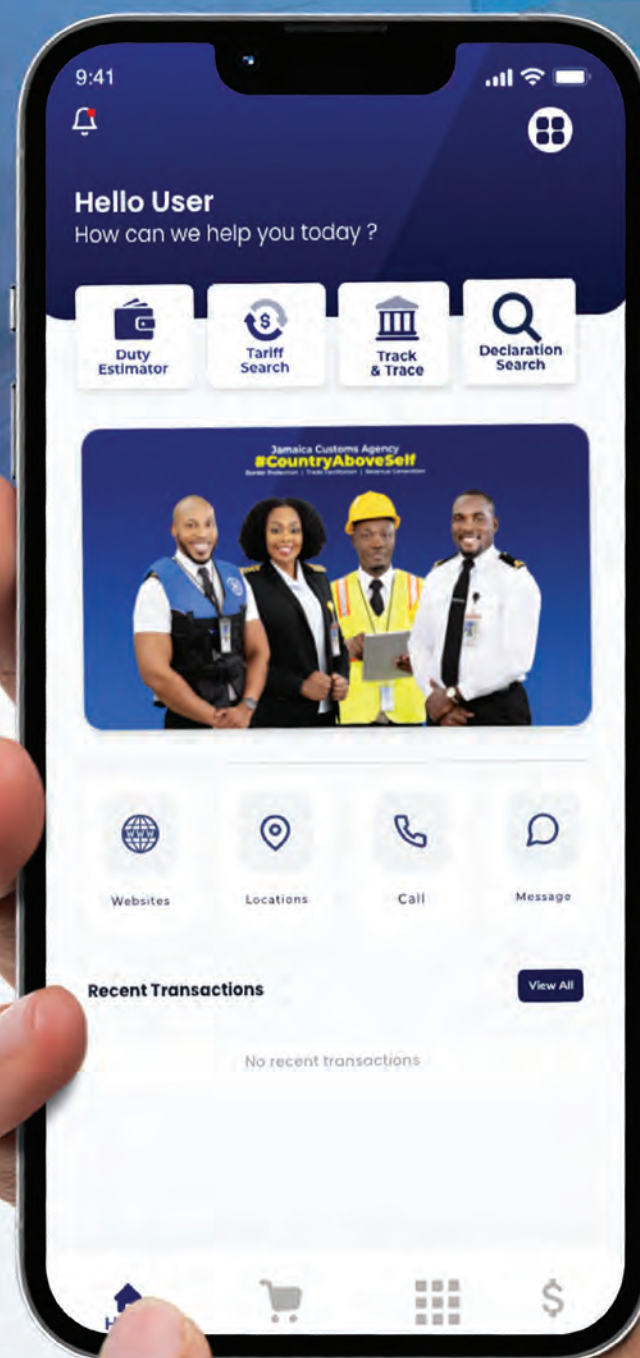
A feature that allows users to estimate the amount payable when importing items into Jamaica.

○ Tariff Search

A feature that allows users to determine the commodity code, duties and taxes, applicable to a specific item.

○ Track & Trace

A feature that facilitates the tracking of items within the Customs clearance process.



CONTACT US ►

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New Era of Digital Transformation

The phased roll out of the National Identification System (NIDS) got underway, marking a new era in Jamaica's digital transformation.

- The official issuing of the first set of national identification (ID) cards took place at the National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA) service centre located at the Central Sorting Office (CSO) in Kingston.
- Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, and Their Excellencies, Governor-General, the Most Hon. Sir Patrick Allen and Lady Allen, became the first persons to receive their ID cards.
- Approximately 300 individuals who were enrolled in the NIDS pilot project will be receiving their NIDS ID cards during this initial phase.
- A nine-member board was appointed for the NIRA.
- eGov Jamaica Company Limited, which has been at the core of the Government's digital transformation

thrust, earned ISO 9001: 2015 certification in software engineering quality management systems.

Jamaica Post

- The Liguanea Post Office in St. Andrew was renovated by Jamaica Post in partnership with NIDS.

Skills Training

- 449 students completed the first year of the Learning and Investment for Transformation (LIFT) Programme. LIFT is a \$2 billion Government of Jamaica programme, being implemented by the HEART/NSTA Trust, aimed at bolstering the social mobility of 2,500 youth over a five-year period.
- The HEART/NSTA Trust launched its Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Ambassador Programme.
- HEART/NSTA trainees renovated the home of a Kingston senior citizen at a cost of \$4 million under the 'TVET in Motion' programme.

Fostering Transparency Through Information

- Regular post-Cabinet press briefings held as part of the Government's responsive and innovative communication infrastructure, fostering transparency, public engagement and trust.
- Jamaica moved up eight places in the 2024 World Press Freedom Index, ranking 24 out of 180 nations with a score of 77.3. Jamaica was the number-one ranked country in the Caribbean.
- Jamaica and Guyana signed a mutual cooperation memorandum of understanding in State media, mass communication and public affairs.
- The Government, through the Broadcasting Commission, embarked on a social media literacy public education drive, to reduce misinformation in the digital space.
- Public Broadcasting Corporation of Jamaica (PBCJ) launched exhibition chroni-



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (right) displays his national identification card during the official launch of the National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA) at the NIRA Centre, Central Sorting Office (CSO) in Kingston on November 15.

cling 100 years of audiovisual history.

- Registration of Data Controllers began June 1. Under the Data Protection Act, persons who hold, receive, use, collect or deal with

personally identifiable information of any individual are considered data controllers and must register with the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC).



Graduates of the HEART/NSTA Trust.



Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, Senator Dr. Dana Morris Dixon, displays the 2024/25 Estimates of Expenditure, during a post-Cabinet press briefing on December 11.



Building A Better Public Service

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

In partnership with ministries, departments and agencies, the Transformation Implementation Unit has made significant strides in building a better public service. These include:

- 1 The rollout of broadband infrastructure which connects over 700 entities to fibre-fast internet
- 2 Implementation of an integrated HR and payroll system to 70 entities which provides seamless processing of HR and payroll data for approximately 80,000 employees
- 3 Rationalisation of 41 public bodies through merger, closure and integration into parent ministry, saving the Government over J\$2 billion
- 4 Modernisation of the CPFSA's ICT infrastructure which has enabled the Agency to work more efficiently and effectively
- 5 A new compensation system for the public sector which reduced 185 salary scales into 16 bands. This has made compensation simpler, more transparent and fairer.



You can learn more about the Government's plan for transforming the public sector by visiting publicsectortransformation.gov.jm.

Get the latest updates on social media

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On the Road to Republic Status

Progress was made in the process to reform the constitution to achieve the national goals of having a Jamaican as Head of State instead of the British Monarch and also ensure that the country's supreme law is a Jamaican instrument.

- The Constitution (Amendment) (Republic) Act 2024, which will abolish the Constitutional Monarchy and transition Jamaica to a republic, was tabled in the House of Representatives.
- A bill to amend Section 61 of Jamaica's Constitution and eliminate reference to the United Kingdom monarchy during the legislative enactment process, was passed.

Public Engagement

- Webinars, town halls and sensitisation sessions were held to discuss the recom-

mendations of the Constitutional Reform Committee (CRC) on the transition to the Republic of Jamaica.

Improving Legislative Policy Development

- A Legislative Policy Development Forum was held to equip technocrats across government with the skills and tools to craft robust legislative policies.

Jamaica participates in 2024 Global Parliamentary Forum (GPF)

- Jamaica was represented at the first Parliamentary Town-hall of the 2024 Global Parliamentary Forum (GPF), in Washington, DC.

Human Rights Debate Competition

- Schools across the island participated in a debate competition to mark International Human Rights Day.



Minister of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Marlene Malahoo Forte, engages with a member of the public, during the National Human Rights Debate Competition held in December.



A member of the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, public education team exchanges a high-five with a student of Holy Trinity High School in Kingston during an education session at the institution on May 9.



Members of the Ministry of Legal and Constitutional Affairs, Human Rights Division engage with students of St. Andrew Technical High School, during an Anti-gang Week activity at the institution in November.



Minister Malahoo Forte engages with members of the public on the Road to Republic during the 10th Biennial Diaspora Conference held in Montego Bay in June.

Significant Legislative Outcomes

Several pieces of legislation were approved by the Houses of Parliament to advance Jamaica's social security and economic agendas.

Legislation Passed

- Political Ombudsman (Interim) (Amendment) Act, 2024
- Appropriations Bill, 2024
- Constitution (Amendment of Section 61) Act, 2024
- Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2024
- Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2024
- Maintenance (Amendment) Act
- Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 2024
- Judicature (Rules of Court) (Amendment) Act, 2024
- Trade (Amendment) Act, 2024

- Segregated Accounts Companies (Amendment) Act
- Financial Services Commission (Amendment) Act, 2024
- Maintenance (Amendment) Act, 2024
- Road Traffic (Reprieve and Nullification of Prescribed Notices) (Amendment) Act, 2024

Reports Approved

- Joint Select Committee report, which reviewed the Offences Against the Person (Amendment) Act 2023, Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Act 2023 and Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Act 2023.

Orders and Regulations Approved

- National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Order, 2024

- Minimum Wage Industrial Security Guards (Amendment) Order, 2024
- National Identification and Registration Regulations, 2024
- National Identification and Registration Information Security Regulations 2024
- National Identification and Registration (Assignment of National Identification Numbers) Regulations, 2024.
- National Identification and Registration Appeals Tribunal Regulations
- National Identification and Registration (Identity Services) Regulations
- Major Organised Crime and Anti-Corruption Agency (Amendment of First Schedule) Order



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (3rd right) marches down Duke Street in downtown Kingston on Thursday (February 15) flanked by fellow parliamentarians, ahead of the Ceremonial Opening of Parliament for 2024/25. Others (from left, front) are Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Hon. Dr. Horace Chang; Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Minister, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith; Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett; Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange; and Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie.

- Conch (Export Levy) (Rate of Levy) Order, 2024
- Administrator-General's (Maximum Value of Small Estates) (Amendment) Order 2024

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Drinking alcohol while gambling can impair your judgement and cause you to lose control.

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Promoting Justice for Peace and Harmony

The Government has been utilising programmes and initiatives to promote justice for peace and harmony:

- Empanelled attorneys at the Legal Aid Council (LAC) completed training in sign language which was facilitated by the Jamaica Association for the Deaf (JAD).
- Judiciary of Jamaica launched its Strategic Business Plan outlining proposed policies, programmes and projects for the country's court system for 2024 to 2028.
- The Plan will be supported by revised management, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for courts, and aims to guarantee the efficient provision of court services and an environment that is appreciative of stakeholders.
- Two civil society organisations (CSOs) - Children First and the JAD, were engaged



Minister of Justice, Hon Delroy Chuck (4th right), and Chief Justice, Hon. Bryan Sykes (4th left), cut the ribbon to officially open and hand over the renovated St. Ann Family Court building to the Court Administration Division (CAD). Other participants are (from left): Judge of the Court of Appeal, Justice Davis Fraser; Custos Rotulorum for St. Ann, Hon. Norma Walters; Permanent Secretary in the Justice Ministry, Grace Ann Stewart McFarlane; Chief Executive Officer, CAD, Tricia Cameron Anglin; Senior Parish Court Judge, Her Honour Yvette Wentworth-Miller, and Chief Judge of Parish Courts, His Honour Chester Crooks.

under the Social Justice (SO-JUST) Project to provide access to justice services for the society's most vulnerable.

- This engagement aims to facilitate these provisions for persons with hearing impairments and children in

contact and conflict with the law.

- The St. Ann Family Court was officially handed over to the Court Administration Division (CAD). Renovation of the facility, based in St. Ann's Bay, was funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Financing Agreement with the Ministry of Justice.
- The court is a modern two-storey facility that will provide the privacy and sensitivity required when dealing with matters involving children as well as family members.
- 56 Attorneys-at-law, legal aid and justice service providers from the Ministry graduated from a six-week training course in Jamaican Sign Language and Deaf Culture.
- \$172.7 million contract signed for the Hanover Justice Centre, which will serve as a model for the buildout of a network of these facilities islandwide.



Minister Chuck interacts with persons with disabilities during the Legal Aid Council justice fair, which was held at Emancipation Park in New Kingston.



Minister Chuck (2nd right) speaks with students of Kingston High School during the 15th staging of the Restorative Justice Conference held on February 7 at The Summit in Kingston. They are (from left) Ashanti Miller, K'Cian Gibson and Mikeeon James. Sharing in the conversation is Director for Safety and Security in Schools, Ministry of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, Richard Troupe.

Agriculture and Fisheries Rebounding

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining led the agricultural sector's recovery efforts following the passage of Hurricane Beryl and Tropical Storm Rafael, which left damage totalling \$7.12 billion.

These interventions focused on bolstering the resilience of the agriculture and fisheries sub-sectors, which benefitted more than 22,000 farmers:

- A Hurricane Beryl Recovery Task Force was established. More than \$1.4 billion was allocated for immediate recovery efforts and strengthening the sector's resilience to future weather events.
- Support packages, valued \$5 million, were provided to affected beekeepers through the Ministry's Apiculture Unit.
- The Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) distributed assorted fruit and vegetable seeds valued at \$63.5 million, along with broiler chickens, broiler rations and agro chemicals to over 19,000 affected farmers.
- 20 recovery kits were distributed to affected dairy farmers through the Jamaica Dairy Development Board.
- Over 57,000 broiler chicks were distributed to farmers islandwide, which are expected to generate \$69.27 million in earnings for the beneficiaries.
- Licensed fishers in southern and western parishes received vouchers and equipment to facilitate their recovery.
- \$10 million was allocated by the Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) for preliminary relief in bauxite parishes.
- JBI also supported 180 chicken farmers with training and inputs.
- \$9.5 million in vouchers were distributed to over 400 residents in Clarendon and St. Elizabeth.
- 51 farm roads across all parishes that were impacted are being rehabilitated at a cost of \$70 million under the Post-Hurricane Beryl Flood Damage Programme.



Minister Green presents a cash voucher to a fisherfolk from Parotee, St. Elizabeth, to assist with Hurricane Beryl recovery.



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green (centre) shares a moment with Clarendon farmers who received donations of supplies to assist with Hurricane Beryl recovery at the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) office in the parish on October 29. He is joined by Principal Director of Technical Services at RADA, Winston Simpson (3rd left); and Managing Director of Jamaica Bauxite Mining Limited (JBML), Donna Howe (6th right).



Minister Floyd Green (centre) hands over fertilisers to Buff Bay Valley coffee farmers during a presentation ceremony at the Bangor Ridge Church of God of Prophecy on September 11. The farmers (from left) are Norma Howard, Shernette Cobran, and Teneshia Bender.

Significant Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining Activities

Implementation of significant activities continued. The most notable were:

- Ground broken for \$574 million Tilapia fish hatchery in Twickenham Park, St. Catherine.
- \$106 million contract signed to implement Agro-Investment Corporation (AIC) Irrigation Transmission Force Main and Equipping Project, which will benefit more than 100 farmers.
- 15,680 parcels of land mapped under the Expansion of the Pedro Palins Irrigation Systems Project.
- 106 new leases were approved for approximately 1,590 acres of former sugar lands across several parishes earmarked to produce a variety of crops.
- 8,300 heads of cattle tagged under the National Animal Identification and Traceability System (NAITS).
- Production Incentive Programme (PIP) expanded to support the resilience of the 12 priority crops, small ruminants, poultry, and disaster mitigation and recovery.
- 95 per cent of pipeline installations completed under the Southern Plains Agricultural Development Project (SPADP) and 99 per cent under the Essex Valley Agriculture Development Project (EVADP).
- Two new water trucks, valued at \$37 million and with a capacity of 4,491 gallons each, commissioned to support farmers in St. Elizabeth.
- 5,000-gallon water truck, valued at \$15 million, commissioned to benefit farmers in St. Ann.
- \$90 million earmarked to support farmers affected by drought conditions.
- 58,000 ready-to-lay pullets provided to farmers, which

are projected to produce approximately 17.29 million eggs annually and enhance the beneficiaries' financial stability.

- 253 scholarships, valued at \$23.5 million, awarded under the Rural Youth Economic Empowerment Programme (RYEEP) managed by the Jamaica 4-H Clubs.
- Jamaica's Conch industry received Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification, under the Compete Caribbean Project.

The certification covers the Industrial Dive Fishery in the Pedro Bank, the first of its kind for conch fishery.

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- 'IrieFINS' online fisheries licensing and registration system operationalised.
- Social projects hosted in mining communities through the Bauxite Community Development Fund.
- These include support to 200 poultry farmers at a cost of \$10 million, rehabilitation of greenhouse clusters and commissioning of \$20 million irrigation infrastructure.
- National seismic network expanded with the installation of a new seismograph station in Montego Bay, St. James.



A vendor selling produce in the Mandeville Market in Manchester.



Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Mining, Hon. Floyd Green (left) looks at a bull during the 67th staging of the Hague Agricultural and Industrial Show in Trelawny on February 14. Looking on is Farm Manager of Minard Estate, Emelio Archer (right).



Fishers in Whitehouse, Westmoreland examine one of two boat engines from the National Fisheries Authority (NFA), which will allow for them to go farther out to sea to catch pelagic (deep sea) fish. They also received VHF Radios.

Major Investment in Upgrading of Hospitals and Clinics

The Government invested billions in the building and upgrading of health sector infrastructure.

Building/Renovation of Hospitals

- \$278-million contract signed and ground broken for Phase One of the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) Redevelopment Project, including realignment of the Ring Road.
- Ground broken for redevelopment of the Spanish Town Hospital, representing a \$5.5- billion investment.
- Special Care Nursery and Paediatric Ward at Annotto Bay Hospital in St. Mary were renovated at a cost of \$266 million.
- The 36-bed Ward 2 North at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH) was officially reopened following extensive renovation valued at more than \$10 million.
- \$26 million was approved for refurbishing work at the Sir John Golding Rehabilitation Centre.
- An operating theatre at the Falmouth Public General Hospital in Trelawny was extensively renovated at a cost of \$45 million.
- The walkway system at the facility was also completed at a cost of \$49 million.
- Official handover of the newly refurbished breast-feeding room in the nursery at the Victoria Jubilee Hospital in Kingston.

Health Centres Upgraded

- Ground broken for upgrading of the Greater Portmore Health Centre, St. Jago Health Centre and Old Harbour Health Centre in St. Catherine, as part of a \$10 billion investment in the parish's health sector.
- The Santa Cruz Health Centre in St. Elizabeth was up-

graded at a cost of US\$1.4 million.

- Malvern Health Centre in St. Elizabeth was upgraded at a cost of \$54 million.
- State-of-the-art Buff Bay District Health Centre in Portland opened at a cost of \$300 million.
- Port Morant and Arcadia Health Centres in St. Thomas were renovated at a cost of \$31 million and \$6 million, respectively.
- Renovated Catherine Hall Health Centre in St. James was officially reopened after rehabilitation work valued at some \$57 million.
- New \$50 million Health Centre opened in Adelphi, St. James.
- Renovated Rio Bueno Health Centre in Trelawny handed over.

Adopt-A-Clinic

- The 50th facility was adopted under the Adopt-a-Clinic Programme, which has garnered over \$200 million in support since its inception in 2017.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (centre) breaks ground for the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) Redevelopment Project in Mona, St. Andrew, on February 20. He is joined by (from left) Chairman, UHWI, Patrick Hyton; Head of Neurosurgery and Medical Chief of Staff, UHWI, Dr. Carl Bruce; Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Member of Parliament, St. Andrew Eastern, Hon. Fayval Williams; Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton; Managing Director, Dwight's Construction, Benton Woodbine; and Acting Chief Executive Officer, UHWI, Fitzgerald Mitchell.

Electronic Health Records

- The multibillion-dollar Electronic Health Records (EHR), which ensures seamless interface of critical diagnostic imaging, was rolled out at several public health facilities.



Minister Tufton (right) observes a demonstration of the capability of one of three digital X-ray machines at the KPH, which were commissioned into service on May 21.



The newly constructed special care nursery at the Annotto Bay Hospital in St. Mary.



Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Jacqueline Bisasor-McKenzie (right) and Director of Nursing Services at the Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), Joan Walker Nicholson, look at a bed in Ward 2 North at the hospital. Occasion was a tour of the newly renovated facility, following the official reopening on March 26.

Health Services Strengthened

The services offered at the island's health facilities were improved, through the provisions of state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment. Persons with non-communicable diseases also had increased access to drugs and treatment, enabling them to live healthier and more productive lives.

Diagnostic Equipment

- The Foetal Diagnosis and Therapy Unit at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI) was equipped with an ultrasound machine valued at US\$96,5356.
- Three digital X-ray machines were installed at KPH under a \$500 million project for the supply, installation and maintenance of X-ray equipment at four hospitals in the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA). The others are the Bustamante Hospital for Children, Spanish Town Hospital, and National Chest Hospital.

Increase in Drug Subsidies

- Subsidies were increased on over 600 National Health Fund (NHF) drug items.
- The support provides benefits for persons with epilepsy, glaucoma, rheumatic and ischaemic heart diseases, hypertension, sickle cell and

thyroid diseases, diabetes, lupus, breast and prostate cancers, arthritis, and major depression.

- The boost in coverage will cost the NHF \$269 million up to March 2025.

Building Human Capacity

- \$75 million annual scholarship fund launched for upskilling of healthcare workers.
- The \$500 million Dr. Barry Wint scholarships were instituted for students doing medical training.
- The annual allocation under the NHF's EduCare Grant for students pursuing healthcare studies was increased from \$15 million to \$25 million.

Provision of Vehicles

- Nine new vehicles were handed over to the SRHA – three Toyota Hiace buses converted to ambulances; four Mitsubishi pickups; one 2024 Toyota Coaster bus, and one 2024 Sino truck at a total cost of \$98.7 million.

Cuba-Jamaica Eye Care Programme

- 3,476 sight-saving procedures were conducted under the Jamaica-Cuba Eye Care Programme between September 2023 and October 30, 2024.



Health Minister, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton (right) engages with patients under the Jamaica-Cuba Eye Care Programme, during a tour of the St. Joseph's Hospital in St. Andrew on October 29.

'New Limb, New Life'

- \$6,261,400 was allocated to two suppliers participating in the 'New Limb, New Life' initiative, which provides prosthetics for persons, who have lost limbs due to diabetes, arterial disease, trauma and cancer.

WHO Certification

- Jamaica received certification from the World Health Organization (WHO) for the Elimination of the mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis.



Dr. Christopher Tufton (2nd left) looks at the features of the ultrasound machine valued at US\$96,356, donated by the National Health Fund (NHF) to the Foetal Diagnosis and Therapy Unit at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), during the handover ceremony at the institution in St. Andrew on December 10. Others (from left) are Maternal Foetal Medicine Specialist, Dr. Nadine Johnson; Medical Officer of Health at the hospital, Dr. Carl Bruce; Chief Executive Officer of the NHF, Everton Anderson.



A resident of Hanover benefits from health services at a #Knowyournumbers event held at the Ruseas High School.



A public health nurse carries out health screenings at a #Knowyournumbers event at Mico University College in October.



The nine new vehicles handed over to the transport department of Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) in Mandeville on February 2.

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Healthy People.
Healthy Environment.



Significant Public Sector Transformation

The Transformation Implementation Unit (TIU), in partnership with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), made significant strides in the Public Sector modernisation agenda:

Notable outcomes included:

- Rollout of broadband infrastructure, which connects over 200 entities to fibre-fast internet.
- Implementation of an integrated human resource and payroll system in 70 entities, which provides seamless processing of data for approximately 80,000 employees.
- Rationalisation of 41 public bodies through mergers, closures and integration into parent Ministries, saving the Government over \$2 billion.
- Modernisation of the Child Protection and Family Services

Agency's (CPFSA) information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure, which has enabled the entity to work more efficiently and effectively.

- Implementation of a new Public Sector compensation system which reduced 185 salary scales into 16 bands. This has made compensation simpler, more transparent and fairer.
- The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and the Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions (JCTU) signed a Heads of Agreement, marking the conclusion of negotiations for items carried over.

Civil Servants of the Year

- Three exceptional civil servants were awarded for their outstanding contribution to the Public Sector during the 2024 Government of Jamaica/

First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union Civil Servants of the Year and People's Choice Awards.

- Jamaica Information Service (JIS) Computer Services Manager, André Allen, copped the Award in the Managerial Category.
- Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) Field Supervisor, Barbara Williams Riley, topped the Mid-Managerial Category.
- Psychiatric Nursing Aide at the Ministry of Health and Wellness Jeron Bonsfeather, captured the award for the Technical Support Category.
- Regional Health Records Administrator at the Health Ministry, Veronica Miller Richards, won the coveted People's Choice Awards with 11,551 votes.



Civil Servants of the Year for 2024/25, (from 2nd left), Psychiatric Nursing Aide, Ministry of Health and Wellness (Kingston and St. Andrew Health Department), Jeron Bonsfeather (Technical Support Category); Field Supervisor, Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), Barbara Riley Williams (Mid-Managerial Category), and Computer Services Manager, Jamaica Information Service (JIS), André Allen (Managerial Category), share a photo opportunity with Assistant General Manager, First Heritage Co-operative Credit Union (FHCCU), Michelle Tracey (left), and Acting Deputy Financial Secretary, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Lois Walters, during the presentation ceremony at the Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel in St. Andrew.

Aspire Jamaica

The Government unveiled ASPIRE Jamaica, a bold new framework to guide the nation's pivot to inclusive economic growth:

This strategy, announced by Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Honourable, Andrew Holness, outlines six pillars critical for transforming Jamaica into a modern, peaceful, productive prosperous society.

ASPIRE stands for:

- Access to Economic Opportunity for All (Inclusive Growth)
- Safety and Security
- People (Human Capital Development)
- Infrastructure Development
- Reform of the Bureaucracy (Ease, Speed, and Cost of Doing Business)
- Economic Diversification/New Industries

"With ASPIRE Jamaica, we continue our commitment to

bold action and visionary leadership," said Prime Minister Holness. "This framework ensures that no one is left behind as we pursue economic independence and shared prosperity," he added.

Key initiatives under ASPIRE include:

- Human capital development through education reform, significant investments in infrastructure, promoting safety and security, and reducing bureaucratic hurdles to attract investments.
- The Government's focus on economic diversification is exemplified by emerging industries including digital technology, logistics, and medical tourism.
- The Prime Minister urged all Jamaicans to unite in achieving the vision of a stronger, more resilient Jamaica.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (left) interacts with two children, during the official handover of 36 housing units in the St. Paul's Lane housing development in Tower Hill, St. Andrew.

Providing Quality Education for Every Child

The Government promoted inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education for every Jamaican child.

Education Transformation

- Work was advanced in the implementation of the recommendations to improve the education sector contained in the Jamaica Education Transformation Commission Report.
- As at November, work was in progress on 129 of the 136 initiatives, with seven fully completed.
- \$34 million investment by Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) in initiatives to transform education.

Teacher Education and Training

- 729 new educators completed studies and joined the profession.
- 200 teachers received scholarships valued at \$31 million to pursue training in financial education.
- \$2.5 billion scholarship programme was launched, enabling 1,250 new student teachers at Mico University to study Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.
- Sam Sharpe Teachers' College introduced two new Bachelor of Education degrees, as well as a slate of short courses.
- Nine additional courses were onboarded to the Jamaica Teaching Council's (JTC) Learning Management System and more than 12,000 teachers trained across various topics.
- Some 1,642 early-childhood practitioners were trained between April and October.

Support for Tertiary Education

- Removal of guarantors for Students' Loan Bureau (SLB) loans was instituted.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness converses with a Jamaica College student while visiting the institution's campus on Old Hope Road in St. Andrew on September 2, to mark the start of the 2024/25 academic year. They are joined by former Education and Youth Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams.



Prime Minister Holness with primary school students.



Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, Senator, Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris, conducts a Mathematics class at the Tarrant High School in Kingston.

- Approximately \$635 million was allocated for scholarships.
- 74 scholarships and grants were awarded to students to pursue studies at the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU).
- \$189 million in scholarships was disbursed to students in low-income families.

Secondary Education

- Schools received \$400 million in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) grants.
- Students from 56 schools benefitted from Christmas term camps in Mathematics and English.
- Old Harbour High School in St. Catherine received a new school bus through support from the Government of Japan's Grassroots Human Security Project.

Primary and Early Childhood Development

- Marcus Garvey in Schools (MGIS) Project extended to 23 primary schools.
- \$480 million allocated to infant and primary schools for operational grants, representing a 39 per cent increase in funding.
- National Summer Academy 2024 held July 15 to 25.
- Approximately 100 early childhood educators successfully completed a literacy intervention project dubbed: 'Read Right from the Start'.
- The number of Early Childhood Commission (ECC) Brain Builder Centres across the country increased to 127.
- Review of the Early Childhood Education Act and Regulations progressed, and drafting of the Early Childhood Policy was 45 per cent complete.

Incorporating Technology in the Classroom

The Government continued to equip educational institutions to make greater use of technology in the teaching and learning process.

- Strategic initiative to integrate artificial intelligence (AI) and adaptive technology into school curriculum unveiled.
- Brown's Hall Primary School in St. Catherine received six smart television (TV) sets to support efforts to incorporate technology in learning.
- A STEM Robotics Centre was opened at Excelsior Community College.
- 200 laptops were provided to the Jamaica Library Service to enhance its technological capabilities.
- Software licences have been provided for students to use –Book Fusion app, the Learning Hub platform for grade four and the Cheetah platform for grades four to six.
- Some 8,000 laptops procured for primary schools and 810 interactive whiteboards for infant, primary and secondary institutions, and colleges.
- Smart labs were handed over at Morant Bay Primary School in St. Thomas; Boundbrook Primary in Portland; Esher Primary School in Hanover; Anchovy Primary in St. James.

Infrastructure Works

- Ocho Rios Primary in St. Ann, Bridgeport High School in St. Catherine, as well as Papine High School in St. Andrew were taken off the shift system.
- Two contracts valued approximately \$380 million were signed for expansion and rehabilitation works at Mount Moriah Primary School in St. Ann and Pisgah Primary and Infant school in St. Elizabeth.



Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, Senator Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris Dixon (centre), tries out the Smart Board in the smart lab at the Morant Bay Primary School in St. Thomas.

- Ground was broken for construction of a high school at Christel House in St. Catherine.
- Work was advanced on the repair of 362 schools damaged by Hurricane Beryl in



The state-of-the-art Smart Lab at the Boundbrook Primary School in Portland.



Former Education Minister, Hon. Fayval Williams (3rd right), breaks ground for the expansion of the Bridgeport High School in Portmore, St. Catherine. Others (from left) are Bridgeport High's Principal, Beverley Harris, and Board Chairman, Dane Levy; Member of Parliament, St. Catherine Southeast, Robert Miller; Mayor of Portmore, Councillor Leon Thomas; and Executive Director, National Education Trust (NET), Latoya Harris-Ghartey.

Gardens were established in 23 schools.

- \$2 billion was allocated for school feeding support for PATH and the National School Feeding Programme.

Making School Spaces Safe

- MOU signed between the Government and the United Kingdom (UK) to boost the Inter-Ministerial School Support Strategy (ISSS), which is aimed at eradicating violence in schools.
- At-risk primary school students supported through the 'Shoot Hoop, Not Guns' violence-prevention initiative.
- 10th safe space for child crime victims opens in partnership with the United States (US)-Jamaica Child Protection Compact.
- 'Trees for Peace' campaign launched through collaboration with Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA). Schools were invited to participate by creating 'Peace Gardens,' which serve as sanctuaries to foster peace, promote conflict resolution, and encourage environmental stewardship.

July. The cost of damage exceeded \$3 billion.

- Bathrooms were upgraded and renovated at Black River High School in St. Elizabeth
- Water-purification machine installed at New Hope Primary in White House, Westmoreland.
- The National Education Trust (NET) invested more than \$300 million in various educational programmes and initiatives.

School Feeding

- A \$10-million National School Garden Project was launched.



Hope Valley Experimental student, Joshmart Taylor lends a helping hand to his schoolmate, Omario Richards, who uses a wheelchair. The students were at the official opening of the Special Education Unit at the institution in St. Andrew.

Local Government Working for the People

- 50 new trucks were officially handed over to the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).
- Waste management capabilities in St. James were enhanced with the commissioning of 11 new units.
- A Bulky Waste and Derelict Vehicle Removal Programme was launched for St. James, aimed at mitigating the risk of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases.
- Post-Hurricane Beryl clean-up programme was launched.
- Garbage collection was boosted in St. Thomas, following the receipt of four new tipper trucks by MPM Waste Management Limited.
- The Government commenced the transitioning of workers into 3,813 new permanent positions.

Parks and Markets

- The Kingston and St. Andrew Municipal Corporation conducted a massive clean-up and sanitisation of the Cross Roads Market.
- \$15 million was disbursed to the St. Ann Municipal Corporation for emergency repairs at the St. Ann's Bay Market.
- Bathrooms at the Ocho Rios Market were reopened after refurbishing work at a cost of \$10 million.
- Repairs were carried out on markets that sustained damage during the passage of Hurricane Beryl in July. These are the Falmouth, Mandeville, Lucea and Old Harbour markets in Trelawny, Manchester, Hanover and St. Catherine, respectively.

Fire Services

- The Drone Unit became operational to assist with surveillance for search-and-rescue exercises, fires and other emergency situations.
- The Black River Fire Station in St. Elizabeth was officially

reopened, following a \$60-million refurbishing project.

- 40 firefighters from St. James, Hanover, Westmoreland, St. Elizabeth and Trelawny completed a water rescue training programme.
- 26 smoke detectors and two fire extinguishers were donated to Mary's Child home, and 10 smoke detectors and two fire extinguishers to the Jamaica National Children's Home.

Infrastructure and Road Repairs

- Residents of Myrtle Way in Portmore, St. Catherine, benefited from zinc fence removal under the Community Renewal Intervention Programme.
- A two-kilometre stretch of roadway in Bigwoods, Westmoreland, was repaired at a cost of \$42 million.
- A \$13-million bridge linking Cornwall Courts, Green Pond and surrounding communities in St. James was opened.
- The Ocho Rios Transportation Centre in St. Ann re-

ceived a facelift through a \$7-million injection from the Equalization Fund.

- \$10 million was earmarked for the rehabilitation of sections of the White River main road in St. Ann.
- A \$22-million contract was signed for rehabilitation of

the Trysee community road in Brown's Town, St. Ann.

- A \$34-million road-patching programme was conducted in sections of Kingston and St. Andrew.
- Work was completed on the reconstruction of the Farm Road to Valley Heights

Bridge in St. James at a cost of \$13 million.

- A \$150-million initiative to repair more than 20 roads across the parish was launched.
- A new digital clock was installed in Morant Bay, St. Thomas.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness observes as NSWMA workers remove old motorcars at the launch of the post-Hurricane Beryl clean-up programme in Portmore, St. Catherine on July 24.



National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) workers remove an old, abandoned refrigerator during the launch of the post-Hurricane Beryl clean-up exercise in Portmore, St. Catherine



Prime Minister Holness (centre) and **Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie** (right), unveil a plaque commemorating the official reopening of the renovated Black River Fire Station in St. Elizabeth, on February 21. Looking on is Jamaica Fire Brigade (JFB) Commissioner, Stewart Beckford.

Delivering Services to Those in Need

The Portland Night Shelter and Drop-in Centre was completed at a cost of \$51 million. The two-storey building includes sleeping accommodation for 18 males and 10 females.

- 13 indigent housing solutions were delivered to deserving residents in Clarendon, Westmoreland, and St. Thomas, with another 13 under construction. A sum of \$150 million was allocated to the Indigent Housing Programme for 2024.
- Up to August, the total number of houses built under the Indigent Housing Programme was 87, with another 13 under construction.

Hurricane Assistance

- Some 250 small business operators in South Manchester, who were severely impacted by Hurricane Beryl, received support to restart their businesses.

- 5,000 hurricane straps were distributed to residents of Rocky Point in Clarendon.
- \$20 million was provided for road repairs in Rocky Point and nearby areas.
- Rehabilitation work was carried out on several entities in St. Elizabeth that suffered damage – markets, fire stations, community centres and the infirmary.

Local Economic Development

- More than 100 small business owners in St. James benefitted from grants totalling \$2.6 million.
- 400 active local economic initiatives across the island were supported, providing employment for 1,378 Jamaicans either full-time, part-time or seasonally.
- Grassroots entrepreneurs were empowered through business clinics.



Minister Desmond McKenzie (left), pushes the wheelchair of Indigent Housing Programme beneficiary, Claudia Green, following the handover of a housing unit in Pagee, Port Maria, St. Mary, in February.



Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie (2nd right), and Minister responsible for Works and Member of Parliament for Clarendon North Central, Hon. Robert Morgan (2nd left), are all smiles as Marlene Stewart (right) of Pennants in the constituency, displays the keys to her brand-new two-bedroom home, which was built under the Indigent Housing Programme. Also observing is Mayor of May Pen, Councillor Joel Williams.

- The Social Development Commission (SDC) hosted a product standardisation session for small businesses in Savanna-la-Mar, Westmoreland, while 30 entrepreneurs in western Jamaica benefitted from a soapmaking workshop.

Summer Employment

- More than 10,000 young people were gainfully employed under the 2024 Youth Summer Employment Programme (YSEP).
- Approximately \$50 million was shared among Muni-

pal Corporations across the island to support Labour Day activities.

Elections

- Jamaicans went to the polls on February 26 for the 2024 local government elections.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness assists 82-year-old Kathrine Miller into her new two-bedroom house, which was handed over in Chambers Pen, Hanover, on January 20. Ms. Miller is a beneficiary under the Government's Indigent Housing Programme.

Strengthening the Cultural Product

- Jamaicans participated in Emancipation/Independence celebration activities from July 31 to August 6 under the theme: 'One Love...To The World'.
- Contract signed with the Guardian Life Limited to establish the Jamaica Entertainers and Creatives Insurance Plan for practitioners in the entertainment, culture and creative industries.
- 1,190 individuals and 118 companies were added to the National Registry of Entertainment and Creative Industries Practitioners (E-Registry) between January 1 and October 31.
- The Watt Town Revival Pilgrimage in St. Ann was inscribed on the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

24-hour Entertainment Zone

- Repairs and other works were completed at the JAMWORLD Entertainment Complex in Portmore, St Catherine. The venue is to be transformed into Jamaica's first 24-hour entertainment zone.
- An Environmental Impact Assessment for the Fort Rocky Entertainment Zone in Port Royal was done.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with Brazil, aimed at strengthening tourism and cultural ties between both countries.

National Labour Day Project

- Labour Day focused on the disabled community under the theme: 'Ramp up di access... Show you care.'
- The national project was the building of a ramp and preparation for the installation of an elevator at the Institute of Jamaica.



Jamaica celebrated 62 years of independence with a spectacular Grand Gala.

Athlete Development

- \$45 million in grants was provided to members of Jamaica's delegation to the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- Junior athletes who competed at the World Athletics

U20 Championships in Lima, Peru, also received gift vouchers totalling \$760,000.

- Over \$20 million was disbursed to athletes under the Athletes Assistance Programme in preparation for the Paris Games.

- Development funding secured to renovate the National Stadium.

Domestic Violence Act takes Effect

- The amendment to the Domestic Violence Act, 2023, which provides greater pro-

tection to victims of domestic violence, took effect on January 22.

- The Sexual Harassment Tribunal was established to hear complaints of sexual harassment and alleged breaches of the Sexual Harassment (Protection and Prevention) Act of 2021; and review an employer's findings and actions taken in respect of a sexual harassment complaint.
- The investigative capacity of the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) was strengthened, through the successful completion of a sexual harassment training course for 18 staff members.

Support for women with disabilities

- Twenty-five women with disabilities were empowered through the Women's Entrepreneurship Support Project. Eight beneficiaries received a Seed Grant of \$150,000, to assist with the expansion of their businesses.
- Another 28 women with disabilities participated in a two-day capacity building workshop.



Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, Hon. Olivia Grange (centre) interacts with Philippe Folkes and his daughter, Janani, as other stakeholders look on, during the unveiling of the Daddy Day Care Series on November 19 at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel in New Kingston.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness presents the Rhone Hornsby Trophy to Jamaica's Sunshine Girls who defeated England in the inaugural Vitality Netball Horizon Series in November.

2024 EXTERNAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During the Ministry of Finance and the Public Services' annual Audit Committees' Conference held at The Summit Kingston on Thursday, November 7, 2024, Hon. Fayval Williams, MP, Minister of Finance and the Public Service announced that the Government will be leveraging artificial intelligence to improve and enhance audit committees in Jamaica.



The Government of Jamaica and the International Finance Corporation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to streamline the development and execution of multiple Public Private Partnership projects across different sectors in Jamaica during a ceremony held at the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service on Wednesday, September 3, 2024. The MOU was signed between Dr. Nigel Clarke, Former Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Makhtar Diop, IFC's Managing Director.



The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in collaboration with the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica held the 2024

Corporate Governance Awards under the theme, 'Fueling Change for Global Impact' at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel on Wednesday, December

4, 2024. The National Health Fund and the Factories Corporation of Jamaica copped the major awards of the evening.



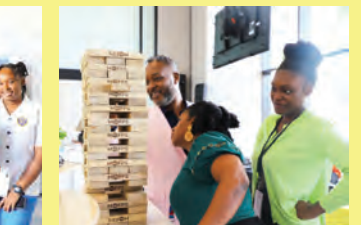
The Ministry of Finance and the Public Service's Office of the Public Procurement Policy hosted its Elevate Procurement Conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre from April 23-25, 2024 under the theme, 'Elevate: Innovate, Create'. The three-day conference featured riveting break-out sessions, lectures and symposiums tackling challenges within public procurement with the

help of local, regional and international experts.



Several members of the public and private sector including secondary students and civil society groups congregated at the AC Hotels by Marriott in Kingston for the second staging of the MOFPS At Your Service Expo

held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. The expo was geared at showcasing the services offered by the Ministry's Divisions, Departments and Agencies and formed as part of activities for 2024 Customer Service Week.



Jamaica Leveraged Partnerships

Jamaica leveraged its strategic partnerships to drive economic and social development, respond to critical challenges and strengthen institutional capacity.

Strengthening Bilateral Relations

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalised under the Japan-Jamaica Partnership Initiative focusing on mutual cooperation.
- China donated two energy-efficient vehicles to support Jamaica's postal and logistics sectors.
- Jamaica and India signed cooperation agreements in sports, culture, digital transformation and online payments.
- Exchange of Notes formalising a \$1.2 billion grant from Japan for fisheries and marine research in Jamaica.
- 2024–2026 roadmap finalised at 8th Jamaica-Canada Bilateral Consultations, outlining clear pathways for collaboration in critical sectors such as education and climate adaptation.
- Signing of an agreement with the United Kingdom (UK) to redevelop the National Stadium in Kingston.
- Chinese Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, pledged \$47 million (US\$300,000) for capacity building.

Diplomatic Relations

- Jamaica and Tunisia established diplomatic relations on September 26, with the signing of a Joint Communiqué.



Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (2nd right) cuts the ribbon to officially open the Jamaican High Commission in New Delhi, India on September 30. Sharing the moment (from left) are Minister of Education, Skills, Youth and Information, Senator Dr. the Hon. Dana Morris Dixon, High Commissioner to India, His Excellency Jason Hall, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith.



Prime Minister Holness (right) plays a game of domino with Diasporans, while Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Hon. Alando Terrelonge (2nd right), Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (3rd right), and others look on. The Prime Minister was touring booths on June 18, after addressing the 10th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in Rose Hall, St. James.

- Prime Minister, Dr. the Most Hon. Andrew Holness officially opened Jamaica's High Commission in New Delhi, India.

New Ambassadors/High Commissioners

- New Jamaican Ambassador to Mexico was appointed.
- Seven new High Commissioners were welcomed from Bangladesh, Canada, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Rwanda and Zambia, and 11 new Ambassadors from Denmark, Korea, Israel, Suriname, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Peru, Zimbabwe, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and the European Union.

Consular Support

- Six new Honourary Consuls were appointed in Eswatini, British Virgin Islands, Monserat, Morocco, Saint Maarten (Dutch Antilles) and Australia, bringing the total network to 86.
- Issuance of over 17,150 Jamaican passports was facilitated to members of the Diaspora.
- Also facilitated were the processing of more than 2,850 visa applications; 2,601 applications for Jamaican citizenship; 540 Emergency Certificates; apostille services for over 5,000 signatures to the tune of approximately \$22 million; and in excess of 456 Letters of No Objection.

Mobilising Resources

- Over \$525 million (US\$3.3 million) in Hurricane Beryl relief and recovery assistance channelled from the diplomatic community, international partners and the Jamaican Diaspora.

- India donated cricket kits valued at approximately \$7.6 million to primary and secondary schools.
- Over 210 CCTV cameras valued at more than \$60 million (US\$400,000) donated by the Republic of Korea to enhance Jamaica's citizen security project.

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- 27 retrofitted service vehicles were donated by Japan to Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

Diaspora Engagement

- Successful staging of the 10th Biennial Jamaica Diaspora Conference in June, attracting more than 1,200 delegates from over 18 countries, as well as another 5,000 participants who joined the ceremonial opening online. Two platforms were launched to enhance connectivity and engagement with the Diaspora: ConnectMeJa and JAM-DEM.



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